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(54) **COLLAPSIBLE PROSTHETIC HEART VALVES**

(71) Applicant: **St. Jude Medical, Inc.**, St. Paul, MN (US)

(72) Inventors: **Peter N. Braido**, Wyoming, MN (US); **Andrea L. McCarthy**, Vadnais Heights, MN (US); **Rubem L. Figueiredo**, Contagem (BR); **Julia A. Schraut**, Shoreview, MN (US)

(73) Assignee: **St. Jude Medical, Inc.**, St. Paul, MN (US)

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(Continued)

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Primary Examiner — Suzette J Gherbi

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Lerner, David, Littenberg, Krumholz & Mentlik, LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A prosthetic heart valve includes an annularly collapsible and re-expandable supporting structure extending between an inflow end and an outflow end and including a plurality of struts and a plurality of posts, each post having an elongated opening, a plurality of leaflets disposed inside the supporting structure and operative to allow flow in a first direction from the inflow end to the outflow end and to substantially block flow in an opposite direction from the outflow end to the inflow end, each of the plurality of leaflets including flaps, and a first patch covering the opening of a first post, the first patch being attached to a first flap of a first leaflet.

27 Claims, 69 Drawing Sheets

